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64. (Amended) A non-invasive method for obtaining a skin sample for use in isolating or detecting a nucleic acid in the skin sample, the method comprising:

applying at least one application of an adhesive to the skin and removing the adhesive from the skin in a manner such that the skin nucleic acid profile after application is not affected for up to about two hours and such that a sample comprising a nucleic acid adheres to the adhesive after its removal, or, scraping the skin with an instrument to remove a sample comprising a nucleic acid from the skin, thereby obtaining a skin sample comprising a nucleic acid; and

- (b) isolating or detecting the nucleic acid from the skin sample of step (a).
- 65. (Amended) The method of claim 64, wherein the skin sample comprises at least one of stratum corneum cells, stratum lucidum cells, stratum granulosum cells, stratum spinosum cells, and stratum basilis cells.
- 70. (Amended) The method of claim 64, wherein the skin sample is isolated by applying the adhesive surface to the skin between one and twenty five times to obtain the skin sample.
- 71. (Amended) The method of claim 64, wherein the skin sample is isolated by applying the adhesive surface to the skin between one and two times to obtain the skin sample.
- 72. (Amended) The method of claim 64, wherein the sample is isolated by one application of an adhesive surface to an outer layer of the skin.
- 82. (Twice amended) The method of claim 80, wherein the cytokine comprises interleukin-1 (IL-I), interleukin-2 (IL-2), interleukin-3 (IL-3), interleukin-4 (IL-4), interleukin-5 (IL-5), interleukin-6 (IL-6), interleukin-8 (IL-8), interleukin-10 (IL-I0), interleukin-12 (IL-12), interleukin-13 (IL-13), granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating factor (GM-CSF), or an interferon, or any combination thereof.

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104. (Amended) A non-invasive method for obtaining a skin sample for use in isolating or detecting nucleic acid encoding a cytokine in the skin sample, the method comprising:

applying an adhesive surface to the skin and removing the adhesive surface from the skin such that a skin sample comprising nucleic acid in an amount sufficient for subsequent isolation or detection adheres to the adhesive surface after its removal and in a manner such that the skin nucleic acid profile after application is not affected for up to about two hours, thereby obtaining a skin sample for use in isolating or detecting a nucleic acid in a skin sample.

- 105. (Amended) The method of claim 104, wherein the skin sample comprises at least one of stratum corneum cells, stratum lucidum cells, stratum granulosum cells, stratum spinosum cells, and stratum basilis cells.
- 106. (Amended) The method of claim 105, wherein the sample is isolated by one application of an adhesive surface to an outer layer of the skin.
- 111. (Amended) The method of claim 104, wherein the skin sample is isolated by applying an adhesive surface to the skin between one and twenty five times.
- 112. (Amended) The method of claim 104, wherein the skin sample is isolated by applying an adhesive surface to the skin between one and two times.



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123. (Amended) The method of claim 121, wherein the cytokine is interleukin-1 (IL-1), interleukin-2 (IL-2), interleukin-3 (IL-3), interleukin-4 (IL-4), interleukin-5 (IL-5), interleukin-6 (IL-6), interleukin-8 (IL-8), interleukin-10 (IL-I0), interleukin-12 (IL-12), interleukin-13 (IL-13), granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating factor (GM-CSF), or an interferon or any combination thereof.

124. (Amended)\\The method of claim 121, wherein the cytokine is an inflammatory mediator.

135. (Amended) A non-invasive method for obtaining a skin sample for use in isolating or detecting nucleic acid in the skin sample, the method comprising:

scraping the skin with an instrument to remove a skin sample comprising nucleic acid in an amount sufficient for subsequent isolation or detection, and in a manner such that the skin nucleic acid profile after application is not affected for up to about two hours, thereby obtaining a skin sample for use in isolating or detecting a nucleic acid in a skin sample.

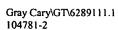
- 136. (Amended) A non-invasive method for obtaining a skin sample for use in isolating or detecting a nucleic acid in a skin sample, the method comprising:
 - (a) scraping the skin with an instrument to remove a sample comprising a nucleic acid from the skin, thereby obtaining a skin sample comprising a nucleic acid;
 - (b) isolating or detecting the nucleic acid from the skin sample of step (a).

Please add the following claims:

137. The method of claim 80, wherein the cytokine is IL-1.

138. The method of claim 80, wherein the cytokine is IL-2.

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139. The method of claim 80, wherein the cytokine is IL-3.

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- 140. The method of claim 80, wherein the cytokine is IL-4.
- 141. The method of claim 80, wherein the cytokine is IL-5.
- 142. The method of claim 80, wherein the cytokine is IL-6.
- 143. The method of claim 80, wherein the cytokine is IL-8.
- 144. The method of claim 80, wherein the cytokine is IL-I0.
- 145. The method of claim 80, wherein the cytokine is IL-12.
- 146. The method of claim 80, wherein the cytokine is IL-13.
- 147. The method of claim 80, wherein the cytokine is GM-CSF.
- 148. The method of claim 80, wherein the cytokine is an interferon.

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